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importance. The last chapter in the volume treats of the relations of Parliament, and especially of the House of Commons, to the crown, the law, and the people, and relates to the proceedings against Wilkes, the contest of the House of Commons with the printers, and some other topics connected with the rights and privileges of the two Houses.

The second volume will include chapters on the history of party, civil and religious liberty, the administration of justice, the press, and other subjects. If it is executed with as much ability as the volume now published, the work will take its place among our standard histories, and will form an inseparable continuation of Mr. Hallam's first two works. We shall probably return to this subject on the completion of Mr. May's labors.

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10.—*Memoirs, Biographical and Historical, of Bulstrode Whitelocke, Lord Commissioner of the Great Seal, and Ambassador at the Court of Sweden, at the Period of the Commonwealth.* By R. H. WHITELOCKE, Professor Royal of Wurtemberg. London: Routledge, Warne, and Routledge. 1860. 8vo. pp. xvi. and 475.

BULSTRODE WHITELOCKE was one of the most conspicuous persons in England during the Commonwealth and the Protectorate. Yet he owes most of his reputation at the present time to the fact that he united the character of an author with that of a politician. At his death he left an immense mass of biographical and historical memoranda to illustrate both his own life and the public transactions of that eventful period. Many of these documents are of much importance, and a selection from them was published after Whitelocke's death, under the title of "Memorials of English Affairs," which is well known to students of English history, and forms one of the principal sources of original information as to the civil war and the period immediately following it. From this work, and from some manuscript documents in the possession of his family, the memoir before us has been for the most part compiled. Though it brings forward few new facts, it presents a full and pretty well digested account of Whitelocke's public and private life, and includes many voluminous extracts from his published writings. The author, who is, we presume, a descendant from the Lord Keeper, is strongly inclined to exalt the personal character and to magnify the political sagacity of his hero, and his estimate of both must be taken with much qualification. He has moreover a very absurd prejudice against lawyers, which he ventilates whenever an opportunity occurs, and on some other points his views are equally indefensible. His style has little brilliancy or vivacity, and as a whole the book is tedious and un-

satisfactory. It will scarcely raise Whitelocke's reputation either as a statesman or as a patriot. Though he was an acute lawyer, and humane in his sentiments, he was timid and vacillating in policy; and the reproach of insincerity rests heavily on some parts of his conduct. In more quiet times he might have been a great lawyer or a successful diplomatist; but he was not equal to the position into which he was thrown during the civil war.

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- 11.—1. *The Diaries and Correspondence of the RIGHT HON. GEORGE ROSE: containing Original Letters of the Most Distinguished Statesmen of his Day.* Edited by the REV. LEVESON VERNON HARCOURT. London: Richard Bentley. 1860. 2 vols. 8vo. pp. xvi. and 518, 527.
2. *The Diary and Correspondence of CHARLES ABBOT, LORD COLCHESTER, Speaker of the House of Commons, 1802 – 1817.* Edited by his Son, CHARLES, LORD COLCHESTER. London: John Murray. 1861. 3 vols. 8vo.
3. *The Autobiography and Correspondence of MARY GRANVILLE, MRS. DELANY: with interesting Reminiscences of George the Third and Queen Charlotte.* Edited by the RIGHT HONORABLE LADY LLANOVER. London: Richard Bentley. 1861. 3 vols. 8vo.
4. *Autobiography, Letters, and Literary Remains of Mrs. PIOZZI (THRALE).* Edited, with Notes, and an Introductory Account of her Life and Writings, by A. HAYWARD, Esq., Q. C. Boston: Ticknor and Fields. 1861. 12mo. pp. 531.

No period of English history has been so amply illustrated as the reign of George III. It might seem, indeed, as though almost every person of note in that age kept a diary, and wrote or preserved letters, with a view to posthumous publication; and within a quarter of a century more than a hundred volumes of "Diaries and Correspondence" must have been given to the world. The increased facilities for the transmission of letters in that reign, as compared with the preceding century, tended to make letter-writing fashionable; while travelling was still attended with too many discomforts and inconveniences to allow of much personal intercourse between town and country. Under these circumstances it is not surprising that the art of letter-writing attained to a degree of perfection which we fear that it no longer possesses; and, fortunately, enough of this correspondence has been preserved to enable us to form almost as clear a conception of the statesmen then directing public affairs as if we had personally known them. The published dia-